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"I deeply regret that it was found absolutely impossible to hold the Second National Exposition of Chemical Industries during Convocation Week. Every effort was made to do so, but all of these efforts failed through inability to secure a suitable building during that week. The exposition must be held in September. If, therefore, we should decide to hold our annual meeting in December, I am confident that it would result in a large portion of our membership attending the exposition and failing to attend the meeting of the society. This would mean a very great loss in this particular year to the prestige and usefulness of the society. The opportunity of a lifetime is in our hands. It seems to me that we would be very unwise to divide our strength just at the time when we have so wonderful an opportunity for increasing it.

"Should the council vote against reconsideration, members of the society connected with universities would not be thereby necessarily prevented from attending the annual meeting. It seems reasonable that university authorities would gladly give leave-of-absence to members of chemistry staffs in those institutions which open on or before September 25, and certainly the departments of chemistry in all of our universities would have much to gain from a meeting held in conjunction with the Second National Exposition of Chemical Industries. "Sincerely yours,

"CHAS. H. HERTY,
"President"

FIRST MEETING OF THE PACIFIC DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE first meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held in San Diego, California, between the dates, August 9 and 12, 1916. The plans for this meeting include four public addresses upon important scientific subjects of general interest. The first of this series of addresses will be that of the president of the division, Dr. W. W. Campbell, director of the Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, on Wednesday evening, August 9, and will be entitled "What we know about Comets." This address will be followed by a reception to visiting scientists. The three other public addresses will occur on Thurs-

day and Friday evenings, August 10 and 11, and on the afternoon of one of the days set aside for the meeting. Addresses will be given by Dr. Barton W. Evermann, director of the Museum of California Academy of Sciences, and by Dr. F. F. Westbrook, president of the University of British Columbia.

Thirteen scientific societies of the Pacific coast region are now affiliated with the Pacific Division and it is expected that many of these societies, together with other scientific societies of the same region will participate in the San Diego meeting. Sessions of these societies will be held on Thursday and Friday, August 10 and 11, and at least one day of the period of the meeting, Saturday, August 12, will be reserved for excursions, which will be both of general and special scientific interest.

The Channel Islands and the region of southern California present a number of extremely interesting geological features. This region is also unique botanically and zoologically. Materials of southwestern ethnology and archeology are to be found among the Indian reservations and remains of Spanish settlements in southern California. The excursions which are to be arranged at the time of the San Diego meeting, will make accessible as many as possible of these interesting features. Among other excursions which may be taken en route to or from the San Diego meeting are visits to the astronomical observatories at the Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton, near San Jose, and the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory, near Pasadena.

Special significance centers upon this meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association at San Diego, since this is the first of a series of meetings which it is planned to hold annually under these auspices in the educational centers of the Pacific coast. Additional interest is given to this occasion by the Panama-California Exposition at San Diego which illustrates in its exhibits the resources of the southwest and includes a series of unusually fine collections concerning the history of man.

Preceding the San Diego meeting of the Pacific Division the first assembly in science

will be held at the Scripps Institution for Biological Research at La Jolla, near San Diego, from June 26 to August 5. The Marine Biological Station of the University of Southern California at Venice and the Laguna Beach Marine Laboratory of Pomona College will also be open throughout the summer. At Pacific Grove on Monterey Bay the Marine Laboratory of Stanford University will be open during the greater part of the summer, and will offer a summer session which will begin May 22, continuing for six weeks.

The general plans for the San Diego meeting are in the hands of the officers and executive committee of the division, which are as follows:

President, W. W. Campbell, Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, California.

Vice-president, D. T. MacDougal, Desert Botanical Laboratory, Tucson, Arizona.

Secretary-Treasurer, Albert L. Barrows, University of California, Berkeley.

Executive Committee: D. T. MacDougal, chairman, Desert Botanical Laboratory, Tucson, Arizona; W. W. Campbell, *ex-officio*, Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, California; Edward C. Franklin, Stanford University, California; Theodore C. Frye, University of Washington, Seattle; C. E. Grunsky, San Francisco, California; George E. Hale, Mount Wilson Solar Observatory, Pasadena, California; Vernon L. Kellogg, Stanford University, California; A. C. Lawson, University of California, Berkeley; E. P. Lewis, University of California, Berkeley.

Plans for meetings in special branches of science are in charge of the societies representing these several branches and the arrangements at San Diego are to be made for the meeting by a local committee of which Dr. Fred Baker, of Point Loma, is the chairman. Railroad and steamer rates for attendance at this meeting will be announced later.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. JOHN A. BRASHEAR, president of the American Society for Mechanical Engineers, was given the doctorate of laws at the Charter Day exercises of the University of Pittsburgh on March 20. On the evening of that day, a dinner was held in honor of the late Samuel

P. Langley, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and previously director of the Allegheny Observatory. The speakers included Dr. John A. Brashear and Dr. J. W. Holland.

We learn from *Nature* that a committee representative of British geologists and friends of Sir Archibald Geikie has presented to the Museum of Practical Geology a marble bust. On March 14, a number of Sir Archibald Geikie's friends assembled in the museum to witness the presentation. Dr. A. Strahan, director of the Geological Survey and Museum, briefly recapitulated the history of the movement. Sir William Garforth unveiled the bust and spoke of Sir Archibald's contributions to science and literature, and then, on behalf of the subscribers, presented the bust to the museum. The Right Hon. J. Herbert Lewis accepted the gift on behalf of the Board of Education; he remarked that it was a source of gratification to the board that the artist commissioned to execute the bust happened to be another of its distinguished servants, Professor E. Lanteri, who had done so much to uphold the standards of the Royal College of Art. The Right Hon. Lord Rayleigh then, on behalf of the subscribers, presented to Sir A. Geikie a marble replica of the bust. In acknowledging his appreciation of the gift, Sir Archibald spoke of the powerful effect the Museum of Practical Geology had had upon him in his early student days, and of the great educational value of its collections.

THE Royal Society of Edinburgh has elected fellows as follows: Dr. R. J. T. Bell, Dr. F. E. Bradley, Mr. H. Briggs, Mr. C. T. Clough, Dr. E. J. Crombie, Mr. E. H. Cunningham Craig, Dr. A. W. Gibb, the Hon. Lord Guthrie, Professor P. T. Herring, Sir Duncan A. Johnston, Mr. H. Levy, Dr. J. E. Mackenzie, Dr. W. F. P. M'Lintock, Professor R. Muir, Dr. J. Ritchie, Mr. D. Ronald, the Hon. Lord E. T. Salvesen, Mr. D. R. Steuart, Mr. J. Martin White.

PROFESSOR LUDWIG BECKER, a native of Germany, at the desire of the secretary for Scotland, has withdrawn from the chair of astronomy in the University of Glasgow.